

Sea Coast Mission gets grant of \$1.3 million

BAR HARBOR — The Maine Sea Coast Mission has received a grant that could provide its EdGE after-school program with \$1.3 million over five years.

The grant, from the 21st Century Community Learning Center, will provide the program with \$300,000 for three years, with possible additional funding for an additional two years. SAD 37, Union 96 and Union 103 are partners with the mission in receiving the grant.

Depending on satisfactory performance in the first three years, the EdGE program could get \$225,000 in the fourth year and \$180,000 in the fifth for a maximum total of \$1,305,000, according to a statement released Monday by the mission. The grant will allow the program to expand to schools in Jonesport, Sullivan and Winter Harbor and to expand its existing programs at Narraguagus High School in Harrington.

"We believe that this program is having a profound impact upon the children it has been serving over the past five years of its existence," the mission's executive director, Gary DeLong, said in the statement. "We are committed to doing all possible to ensure the long-term sustainability of the EdGE [program] for future generations of children."

The grant is not sufficient to cover all of the costs of the after-school program for the five years, the statement indicated. The mission will continue to seek additional funds for the program through its annual fundraising campaigns, its capital campaign to raise an endowment for the EdGE program to help ensure its sustainability, and through foundation grants.